

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS CONCERNING STOLTHAVEN

1) Do the chemicals released at Stolthaven pose a risk to humans or the environment?

Some surface water samples showed levels above drinking water standards in the flooded areas outside of the facility. However, the flood water is not considered a potable water source, so these exceedances are not indicative of a human health concern at this time. All detected levels were within the range considered acceptable for primary recreational contact with surface waters which includes activities such as incidental contact with water and wading. DEQ will continue to monitor samples for any abnormal findings.



Crews work to upright rail cars as boom surrounds the facility

Citizens should avoid contact with any floodwater. Floodwater contains a variety of contaminants including bacteria, which is naturally occurring. DEQ and others are currently reviewing a sediment sampling plan. Anyone in the area should avoid contact with sediment. Citizens should avoid ingesting floodwater or sediment.

While there have been documented releases from the facility, air monitoring data to date shows there are currently no off-site impacts related to air. DEQ has been on site since Sept. 1 and air monitoring early on at the levee adjacent

to the facility, off site, showed varying levels of methyl acrylate that would at time require respiratory protection. The cause of that leak has been corrected and current air monitoring has shown no other off-site impacts to date.

2) How do I know what is being sampled for and where?

The water sample data is available on the DEQ Web site. Air sampling data for on site and off site is also available under the Stolthaven Braithwaite button at www.deq.louisiana.gov

3) Does anyone know how much leaked out of the facility?

That is still under investigation. We will hold Stolthaven accountable. The company will clean up any contaminated area and face possible fines. The best estimate will come after a pre and post-storm reconciliation of the materials that were on site.



4) Why didn't DEQ cite the numbers when the NRC report came about?

Stolthaven is required to make these notifications and they have a timeframe they have to meet. We will hold Stolthaven accountable and they will clean up the area. The NRC reports are not always accurate, which is why we have an on-going investigation into the incident. For any penalties to be levied, we need accurate information. Also, DEQ, State Police and a representative from Stolthaven discussed the issue about releases at a press briefing earlier this week.

5) Why did it take company officials until Sept. 4 to discover leaks from tanks? Didn't you say DEQ had someone on site by Sept. 1? Did the DEQ official not detect the leaked chemicals?

Most of the area was still flooded at that time. Even today, some areas are still not accessible to workers. DEQ's early monitoring data was relegated to air monitoring and not tank inspections due to the flooding.

6) Please provide a copy of the facility's emergency hurricane preparedness plan.

It's available at the DEQ Web site, deq.louisiana.gov

7) How many chemicals did the facility have on the grounds in storage when Isaac struck?

That is under investigation. The main objective of the unified command group is to have the community cleaned up.

8) What will the state do to make sure the facility is safe from future hurricanes?

DEQ works with all permitted facilities to make sure they comply with state and federal regulations. Facilities that violate their permits, the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act will be held accountable. Stolthaven will clean up any contaminated area and face possible fines. There are many questions that DEQ and other state, federal and local officials need answered as the investigation moves forward.

9) What is DEQ's role?

The Department of Environmental Quality provides technical oversight related to the cleanup activities, approves sampling plans and analyzes data along with other state, federal and local responders in a unified command group.

10) Will Stolthaven be fined, face any penalties?

The facility has already been made aware of a notice of potential penalty for failure to notify in timely manner. As the investigation continues, there could be more enforcement actions that include penalties up to \$32,500 per day.